



100 – 141 Catherine Street
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1C3
Telephone: (613) 231-4168
Fax: (613) 231-3254

100 – 141, rue Catherine
Ottawa, Ontario K2P 1C3
Téléphone : (613) 231-4168
Télécopieur : (613) 231-3254

cpa-acp.ca

February 20, 2022

Hon. Marco Mendicino, P.C., M.P.
Minister of Public Safety
Public Safety Canada
269 Laurier Avenue W
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P8

Hon. Bill Blair, P.C., COM, M.P.
Minister of Emergency Preparedness
Public Safety Canada
269 Laurier Avenue W
Ottawa, Ontario
K1A 0P8

Dear Minister Mendicino, Minister Blair,

I am writing to you today on behalf of the civilian and sworn members of the Canadian Police Association to offer our support for your government's efforts to declare a public order emergency, pursuant to section 58 of the *Emergencies Act*, made necessary by the series of blockades and occupations of critical infrastructure across Canada that our members have been addressing for the past three weeks.

First, as I write this, I would like to note our Association's gratitude for the exemplary efforts of police personnel from services across Canada who have been working tirelessly in our nation's capital to support the efforts of Ottawa Police Service members to end the unprecedented occupation of the neighbourhood surrounding Parliament Hill. Canadians from coast to coast have witnessed, first hand, the exceptional professionalism and composure of the uniform men and women who have responded to this situation, though it is also important to highlight the efforts of those working 'behind the scenes' to ensure that all members have been supported throughout this deployment, particularly those away from home for extended periods.

As an organization dedicated to representing front-line law enforcement, those who are directly responsible for maintaining order and preserving the security of our communities, we are acutely aware of the challenges that have been brought forward by the so-called "Freedom Convoy 2022". Providing law enforcement with the necessary tools to address the financing and

.../2

support of these unlawful assemblies is of paramount concern to our association, not only to ensure those directly responsible for the recent occupation of Ottawa are held accountable, but also to serve as a deterrent for those who might wish to replicate those actions in other jurisdictions across the country.

I believe it is also important to highlight one of the most important aspects of this declaration, which is the statutory oversight that is required following the invocation. As you are both no doubt aware, policing in Canada is already the most regulated profession in our country. Most of our members already operate under multiple layers of independent oversight that provides accountability to the public for their actions. That oversight is, of course, entirely appropriate, given the extraordinary powers that are exercised by police personnel. Our members firmly believe that level of oversight is absolutely necessary to maintain and enhance the extraordinary levels of trust and confidence that our profession enjoys among Canadians, and we look forward to working with your government in the coming months to ensure that future reviews of the use of this declaration, as well as the circumstances that led to its necessity are effective and thorough. I can assure you both that your government will have the full cooperation of the Canadian Police Association throughout that future process.

There is no doubt that serious questions will be asked about how the occupations in Coutts (Alberta), Windsor and Ottawa (Ontario), and in other jurisdictions across Canada were allowed to take hold, but it is important to highlight that once the necessary tools and resources were brought to bear, particularly in Ottawa, that our members exercised their duties with exceptional skill and professionalism, under extraordinarily difficult circumstances. The *Emergencies Act* was and remains one of those tools, and our association offers its full support for your efforts to enhance the abilities of our civilian and sworn police personnel to restore and maintain the safety and security of our communities.

I look forward to continuing our work together for a safer and more secure Canada.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Stamatakis', with a stylized, cursive script.

Tom Stamatakis
President
Canadian Police Association